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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/618,792	07/14/2003	Michelle Flaherty	F017-5074	7311

7590

01/24/2005

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New York, NY 10004

EXAMINER

HO, THOMAS Y

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3677

DATE MAILED: 01/24/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

## Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/618,792

Applicant(s)

FLAHERTY, MICHELLE

Examiner

Thomas Y Ho

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 14 July 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 14 July 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Status of the Claims*

Claims 1-15 are currently pending. No claims have been withdrawn or cancelled.

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102*

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

**Claims 1-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Johnson  
US3733852.**

As to claim 1, Johnson discloses: a necklace comprising: a necklace clasp having two complementary clasp parts 15/16 releasably engageable with one another to fasten the necklace around the neck of a wearer; two connecting clasps (safety pins directly connected to 15/16) coupled to respective ones of the clasp parts; and two or more necklace strands (any combination of the linearly connected safety pins is a strand) detachably attached at opposite ends thereof to respective ones of the connecting clasps.

As to claim 2, Johnson discloses: wherein each necklace strand has at each of the opposite ends thereof a connector ring (the first vertically oriented safety pins closest to 15/16) detachably attached to one of the connecting clasps.

As to claim 3, Johnson discloses: wherein the connector rings are permanently connected to the ends of the necklace strands. The connector rings are permanently connected when the safety pin is closed.

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As to claim 4, Johnson discloses: wherein at least one of the necklace strands comprises two or more individual strands having at each of their opposite ends a common connector ring detachably attached to one of the connecting clasps.

As to claim 5, Johnson discloses: wherein each of the necklace strands comprises two or more individual strands having at each of their opposite ends a common connector ring detachably attached to one of the connecting clasps.

As to claim 6, Johnson discloses: wherein the connecting clasps comprise spring ring clasps.

As to claim 7, Johnson discloses: a necklace comprising: a necklace clasp having two complementary clasp parts releasably engageable with one another to fasten the necklace around the neck of a wearer; two connector rings coupled to respective ones of the clasp parts; at least one necklace strand permanently connected at opposite ends thereof to respective ones of the connector rings; and one or more necklace strands detachably attached at opposite ends thereof to respective ones of the connector rings.

As to claim 8, Johnson discloses: wherein each of the detachably attached necklace strands has at opposite ends thereof a connecting clasp detachably attached to one of the connector rings.

As to claim 9, Johnson discloses: wherein the connecting clasps comprise spring ring clasps. Safety pins are spring rings.

As to claim 10, Johnson discloses: in combination: a universal clasp comprising a necklace clasp having two complementary clasp parts releasably engageable with one another, and two connecting clasps coupled to respective ones of the clasp parts; and a plurality of

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necklace strands each having at opposite ends thereof a connector ring, the connector rings of each necklace strand being detachably attachable to the connecting clasps to enable desired ones of the necklace strands to be interchangeably, detachably attached to the universal clasp to create different necklaces.

As to claim 11, Johnson discloses: wherein the plurality of necklace strands includes necklace strands of different design, size or color. The beads provide different designs and colors.

As to claim 12, Johnson discloses: wherein one or more of the necklace strands comprises two or more individual strands having at each of their opposite ends a common connector ring.

As to claim 13, Johnson discloses: wherein the connecting clasps comprise spring ring clasps.

As to claim 14, Johnson discloses: wherein the plurality of necklace strands includes necklace strands of plurality different design, size or color.

As to claim 15, Johnson discloses: wherein one or more of the necklace strands comprises two or more individual strands having at each of their opposite ends a common connector ring.

### ***Conclusion***

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

US4527316 to Murphy discloses a jewelry chain-stay.

US6138356 to Hertelendy discloses a method of stabilizing a necklace.

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US6256793 to Arias discloses a chain scarf fashion accessory.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thomas Y Ho whose telephone number is (703)305-4556. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 10:00AM-6:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, J. J Swann can be reached on (703)306-4115. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

TYH



**JJ Swann**  
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